

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. No amendment has been proposed. It is respectfully submitted that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 8, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 8 of the Office Action that claims 5, 7 and 8 are allowable.

Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 7 of the Office Action that claim 4 would be allowable, if amended, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, for at least the reasons stated below, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 1 – 4 and 6 are allowable.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejections:

- 1) claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Josephson (U.S. Patent No. 4,608,625, of record) in view of Ibori (U.S. Patent No. 5,465,202, of record); and

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- 2) claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawanobori (of record) in view of Ibori and Takeda (U.S. Patent No. 5,475,500, of record).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

In response to Applicant's argument that while Ibori may disclose short-circuiting a positive polarity voltage outputting terminal with respect to a ground terminal, Ibori fails to disclose or fairly suggest short-circuiting between a positive polarity voltage outputting terminal and a negative polarity voltage outputting terminal, the Examiner asserts:

The Examiner understands that the Ibori reference does not disclose short-circuiting a positive terminal and a negative terminal. However, the Josephson (claims 1-3) and Sawanobori (claim 6) references disclose power supplies, each with a positive terminal and a negative terminal. The Ibori reference has been introduced solely to establish the obviousness of short circuiting two terminals upon loss of a power source.¹

However, the Examiner is attempting to mis-characterize the teachings of Ibori. That is, the Examiner asserts that Ibori teaches in col. 1, lines 18-19, "an advantage to short-circuiting the positive and negative lines upon loss of power is that electrical shock by residual voltage may be prevented." However, while Ibori may teach discharging stored electric charge of a D.C. smoothing capacitor to avoid electrical shock after the input voltage is cut off, there is absolutely

¹ Please see, item 2, page 2 of the Action.

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no teaching in Ibori concerning “short-circuiting the positive and negative lines upon loss of power.”

This is evident from the Examiner’s statement, noted above, that “the Examiner understands that the Ibori reference does not disclose short-circuiting a positive terminal and a negative terminal.”

Further from lines 7-8 of page 4 of the Office Action, it is clear that the Examiner also acknowledges that “Josephson is silent with regard to including means for short-circuiting the positive and negative terminals upon loss of source power.”

As such, it is respectfully submitted that Ibori and Josephson, singly or in combination, fail to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 1 concerning *a short circuit for short-circuiting substantially between said positive polarity voltage outputting terminal and said negative polarity voltage outputting terminal in response to a power-off signal provided by the control circuit*, or the features of claim 6 concerning *a short circuit for short-circuiting substantially between said first terminal and said second terminal in response to a power-off signal from said micro-computer*.

Moreover, even if, assuming *arguendo*, that Ibori were to teach the feature of short-circuiting between a positive polarity voltage outputting terminal and a negative polarity voltage outputting terminal upon loss of source power, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has

failed to establish that the capacitors 62 and 66 of rectifier 48 and capacitors 114 and 118 of rectifier 109 need to be discharged to avoid possible electrical shock upon loss of power.

Instead, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to short the capacitors 62 and 66 of rectifier 48, since Josephson explicitly discloses in col. 4, lines 48-50 that “[r]ectifier means 48 also includes a bleeder resistor 68 which bleeds a small amount of stored charge from capacitor 66.”

In view of the above, it is submitted that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to the features of claim 1 based on the teachings of Ibori and Josephson.

Dependent Claims 2 and 3:

As noted above, “the Examiner understands that the Ibori reference does not disclose short-circuiting a positive terminal and a negative terminal.”

Therefore, it is submitted that Ibori clearly fails to disclose the respective features of claims 2 and 3 regarding *wherein said short-circuit includes a series circuit having a switching element and a current-limiting element connected between said positive polarity voltage outputting terminal and said negative polarity voltage outputting terminal, and wherein said short circuit includes a switching element connected between said positive polarity voltage outputting terminal and said negative polarity voltage outputting terminal.*

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Independent Claim 6:

Similarly, with regard to independent claim 6, it is submitted that Sawanobori fails to teach or fairly suggest the above-noted drawbacks of Ibori with regard to the feature of claim 6 concerning *a short circuit for short-circuiting substantially between said first terminal and said second terminal in response to a power-off signal from said micro-computer.*

In view of the aforementioned remarks, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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